

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in an interview with attorney of record Pablo Meles (Reg. No 33,739) on May 05, 2010.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

a) In the Claims:

6. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating with a remote set top box (STB) that provides a service to end users comprising:

receiving at a location remote from the STB a first item of information related to parameter settings associated with the STB from the STB, the parameter settings affecting the provisioning of the service to the end user;

retrieving a second item of information from a database spaced from the STB;

comparing at the location remote from the STB the first item of information with the second item of information, the second item of information being related to parameter settings expected to be associated with the STB; based on a result of the comparing, communicating to the STB from the location remote from the STB an instruction to change at least one of the parameter settings affecting the provisioning of the service to the end user; and

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wherein the instruction communicated to the STB provides for at least one of enabling a resource of the STB related to the first item of information, disabling a resource of the STB related to the first item of information, including authorization keys related to the first item of information, and causing the STB to diagnose a problem of the STB related to the first item of information.

25. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer readable medium having encoded instructions that causes at least one computer to:

receive a first item of information from a set top box (STB) that provides a service to end users, wherein the first item of information relates to parameter settings that affect the provisioning of the service to the end user and that are associated with the STB;

retrieve a second item of information from a database spaced from the STB, wherein the second item of information relates to an expected configuration of the STB;

compare the first item of information with the second item of information;

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send an STB instruction to the STB wherein the instruction is ~~adapted~~ configured to change at least one of the parameter settings affecting the provisioning of the service to the end user; and

wherein the STB instruction provides for at least one of enabling a resource of the STB related to the first item of information, disabling a resource of the STB related to the first item of information, including authorization keys

related to the first item of information, and causing the STB to diagnose a problem of the STB related to the first item of information.

27. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein the encoded instructions further cause the STB instructions to be sent to a remote resource manager of the STB and wherein the encoded instructions further cause the remote resource manager to detect the resources and send the first item of information.

28. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim ~~25~~, wherein the encoded instructions further cause the STB to receive user input that requests a new service, and determine by the remote resource manager whether the S TB has the resources to support the new service.

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29. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the STB is integrated into a television.

30. (CANCELLED)

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32. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the service comprises audio and video content playback.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 6-8, 23, 25, 27-29 and 31-32 are allowable over the prior art of record.

The examiner had found that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest or render obvious "compare the first item of information with the second item of information; send an STB instruction to the STB wherein the instruction is

configured to change at least one of the parameter settings affecting the provisioning of the service to the end user; and wherein the STB instruction provides for at least one of enabling a resource of the STB related to the first item of information, disabling a resource of the STB related to the first item of information, including authorization keys related to the first item of information, and causing the STB to diagnose a problem of the STB related to the first item of information" as in claims 6-8, 23, 25, 27-29 and 31-32. Therefore, the prior art of record alone or in combination do not teach the incorporated limitations taken in context of the claims.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance or Examiner Amendment."
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Faruk Hamza whose telephone number is 571-272-7969. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached at 571-272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from

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the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 886-217-9197 (toll -free).

Faruk Hamza

Patent Examiner

Group Art Unite 2455

/Faruk Hamza/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2455